

2 April 1965

MEMO FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit Flood Control Improvements

1. On the evening of 29 March, Colonel Holbrook and I attended an evening meeting which included an assemblage of 42 persons interested in flood control improvements in the Skagit River basin. A list of persons attending the meeting is attached hereto. Colonel Holbrook described the general planning for the Skagit River basin and referred to the Skagit River report on levee and channel improvement now under review by the Division Engineer. He also outlined general aspects of proposed future studies in the Skagit River basin. He emphasized the necessity for local cooperation support. I presented additional details of planning on our proposed studies of the Nookachamp Creek area. Following these presentations, there was a question and answer period. The following representative inquiries were discussed:

1. Question: If you levee off the Nookachamp Creek Area, how can you be assured that it will be available when we require it in a flood emergency?

Answer: The right to flood would be made a legal part of the agreement turning over the project to local interests to operate. The right to flood this type of project has been utilized many times in flood control projects of the Mississippi River.

2. Question: Diking District 1 is already constructing many of the improvements recommended in the Corps plan. Can they be reimbursed for this effort?

Answer: Reimbursement for work done prior to project authorization is not possible. There are many instances where the Corps has had to reject local interest claims for this kind of work.

3. Question: Diking District 1, the State and County are insisting on higher standards than shown in the Corps plan. That is, top widths of levees are 12 to 14 feet and side slopes are 3 on 1 instead of 2 on 1. Why is this necessary?

Answer: This may be in part because the soils being used in the present construction are less stable than those used in the Corps plan. In the present instance, we would say that the Corps standards are minimum ones and that we will give consideration to increasing the sections at the time final project planning is undertaken.

4. Question: In the Nookachamp Creek area, what provision would be made for taking care of the runoff from Nookachamp Creek?

Answer: Flood control gates, and a pumping station would be studied in connection with handling of the interior drainage for the Nookachamp Creek area.

5. Question: What about flood control for the areas upstream of Sedro Woolley?

Answer: This will be thoroughly examined in the next phase of our project studies, with full consideration of upstream storage as well as flood problems above Sedro Woolley.

6. Question: Why does the Corps propose channel improvements in the lower river? This can ruin the fishing and require taking of many farm buildings.

Answer: In final design, consideration will be given to both channel improvement and additional levee construction. Final design will be dependent on more detail survey studies that were made in the planning work.

7. Question: Will the Avon Bypass be necessary as a condition for the construction of levees in lower river?

Answer: We are not certain about conditions that our higher authority will place on construction and improvement of the levees. We know that they are reluctant to authorize projects which in themselves have only a low degree of flood control improvement.

2. In concluding the discussion, Mr. George Dynes made a general statement that citizens of the area should refrain from making premature judgments on the feasibility of any aspect of flood control planning until the Corps has had a full opportunity to complete its engineering studies. He directed his remarks principally to opponents of the Avon Bypass. He strongly advised against prejudging the project and against trying to discourage completion of the engineering studies which will determine final alinement and costs of the Bypass. The meeting was very cordial and, in general, indicated strong support for the Corps flood control planning efforts.

1 Incl
List of attendees

GEDNEY 

cc: District Engr thru C, Engr Div
Skrinde
BP desk file

Flood Control Meeting

Feb 29, 1965

| Name | Address | Representing |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| EMSLAY Carl Hanson | 106 PUGET S.V. Mount Vernon, Wash. | SKAGIT CO Dike District #1 |
| Col Holbrook | Corps of Engineers | |
| Robert Gedney | " | |
| Lloyd Johnson | Skagit County | Skagit County |
| Walter Lee | Mount Vernon Rt #3 | Pipe #2 |
| Albert Gervita | 9 Mt Vernon Pt. 3 | Dike #2 |
| Norman W. Hanson | Mount Vernon | Mayor |
| Bill Be... | " | Dike #12 |
| Pete Walker | Mount Vernon Rt 6 | Dike #12 |
| Carl L. Peterson | Conway | Skagit Corporation |
| Geo. M. Dwyer | Rt Bay 246, Mt. Vernon | Dike Dist #20 |
| Ernest Schell | 356 Steubing St. Lewis & Clark Mount Vernon | Skagit Corporation |
| Ernest | Rt 4 Mt Vernon | Dairy Valley Farms |
| Melvin Stakkeland | Rt 6 Mt Vernon | Dike #1 Dist #3 |
| Magnum Johnson | CONWAY | DIKE NO 3 |
| Edwin Nordal | Rt 4 Mt Vernon | Dike Dist 21 |
| Curtis Miller | Rt #4 Mt. Vernon | Drainage Dist. # 21 |
| Ray Busham | Rt 1 Dow Wash | Dike Dist # 19 |
| Ray E. Andalv. | Edson Hwy Ex 102 | Dike Dist # 19 |
| John Rasmussen | #5 Mt Vernon Wash | Drainage Dist # 17 |
| John | Rt 1 Burlington Wash. | Drainage Dist # 14 |
| A. Knutson | Rt 6 Mt Vernon | Dike #1 |
| Wynona P. Shue | Rt 3 Mt Vernon | County Commission |
| Jack Wiley | Rt #1 Mt. Vernon | Dike Dist #1 |
| Gene Henschel | Rt 6 Mt Vernon | Dike Dist. 15 |
| Robert Reddy | Rt 6 Mt Vernon | Dike Dist 21 |
| Alvin Bell | Rt 6 Mt Vernon | Dike Dist 21 |
| Walter Ellson | Rt 1 Mt Vernon | Dike Dist 19 |
| Wendell Leander | Rt 5 " " | Mt Vernon Ch of Comm |
| W. A. Jullison | Route 4 Mt Vernon | Drainage Dist # 21 |
| Norman Stakkeland | Rt 2 Mt Vernon | Dike Dist 17 |
| Curtis Knutson | Rt 6 " " | Dike " 9 |
| Curtis Johnson | Rt 6 " " | " " " |
| R.C. Nordal | Rt 1 " " | Drainage 19 |
| Chris Knutson | Rt 1 " " | Dike Dist # 5 |
| John Rutherford | Rt 3 " " | Dike 18 |
| John Jullison | Rt 3 " " | " 15 |
| Edna Jullison | Rt 3 " " | Dairy Dike Dist. # 13 |
| Walter Leander | Rte 4 Ex 263 | |
| Kudie Leander | Route 1, Dow Wash | |